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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Department of Army, various branches of G-2, General Staff.

Conference (4 August 1953) in Office of Colonel L.R. MacAdam, Chief, Area Resources Branch, Production Division. The following persons (in addition to Colonel MacAdam) were present:

Colonel Postlethwait - Assistant Chief, Area Resources Branch  
Lt. Col. George Russell - Area Resources Branch (member of E.I.C.)  
Lt. Col. R.C. Thomas - Plans Officer, Collection and Dissemination Division  
Mr. John F. Kullgren - Adviser, Area Resources Branch  
Miss Tobin - Analyst Area Resources Branch

1. Mr. Kullgren started the discussion by suggesting that some ORR reports contain too many qualifications, too great an emphasis upon the limitations of our estimates. He said that what most people wanted was a firm estimate with only a narrow range of variations. This point of view is understandable but it contrasts rather sharply with the views of several other officers consulted in this survey who have indicated a desire for a candid presentation of the quality of an estimate as well as the presentation of the naked estimate without such qualifications. This view also contrasted with observations with Colonel Coverdale, Chief C and D, G-2, had made to me about the very unsatisfactory quality of much of the intelligence information that is at present available as a basis for Soviet Bloc estimates.

2. All of the officers present, however, agreed that a separate brief abstract of many ORR reports would be highly desirable. The volume of intelligence production is so great that only a technical specialist in a given field usually can find time to read a detailed industry or commodity report. A concise abstract would meet the needs of most G-2 analysts.

3. There is a general appreciation at the working research level in the Area Resources Branch (which is the principal research facility of G-2 dealing with economic and related problems) of the informal assistance and cooperation which they receive from the analysts in ORR. For some sectors of industry with which G-2 is primarily concerned, however, such as production of tanks, artillery, and other ground force arms, ammunition and equipment, there is obvious dissatisfaction in the manner in which some ORR reports have been prepared, issued, and widely distributed without any coordination with G-2 or with the intelligence branches of the technical services. The G-2 officers present cited two particular examples of such reports:

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